

Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 085860

P R 011745Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5432

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

S E C R E T DUBLIN 0292

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: ENERGY: EC/ARAB COOPERATION INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 37780

1. WE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE POINTS IN REFTEL TWICE ON FEB 28: FIRST IN CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFFS AND FONOFF ASSISTSEC EAMON GALLAGHER, THEN IN CALL BY AMB ON FONMIN FITZGERALD.

2. GALLAGHER REPLIED THAT EC FONMINS WERE SCHEDULED TO MEET MONDAY, MARCH 4, ON COOPERATION WITH ARABS, AND MINISTERS

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WOULD HAVE TO TAKE SOMETHING MORE THAN A NON-DECISION.

IF EIGHT OF THE FONMINS WERE TO RESIST ANY MOVEMENT, FRENCH WOULD ACCUSE THEM OF CAVING UNDER US PRESSURE, AND NO ONE WOULD WANT TO OPEN HIMSELF TO THAT CHARGE. POSSIBLY, HOWEVER, EC COULD TAKE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO APPROACH ARABS, THEN DELAY SUBSTANTIVE WORK UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INTERFERENCE WITH US PEACEMAKING EFFORTS AND WORK OF ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP. GALLAGHER SEEMED TO HAVE LITTLE CONFIDENCE THAT IRISH COULD INFLUENCE EC DECISIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT HE SAID THAT HE FELT HE COULD GIVE US SOLID ASSURANCES ON ONE POINT: EC DEALINGS WITH ARABS WOULD NOT RPT NOT INVOLVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SOME INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBERS MIGHT SUPPLY ARMS, BUT EC AS A COMMUNITY WOULD NOT. WE TAKE IT THAT IRELAND WOULD STICK ON THIS POINT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SAME TALKING POINTS, FONMIN ALSO TOLD AMB THAT COMMUNITY WOULD NOT GET INTO MILITARY EQUIPMENT BUSINESS. BUT FITZGERALD DID NOT KNOW WHETHER EC WOULD ALLOW US TO "ORCHESTRATE APPROACHES TO ARABS." AMB SAID HE THOUGHT ALL COULD SEE THAT US WAS ONLY COUNTRY WITH A MAJOR AND PROMISING PEACEMAKING EFFORT UNDER WAY, AND IT WOULD NOT MAKE SENSE FOR ANY COUNTRY, LET ALONE FRIENDLY ONES, TO MAKE ANY MOVES THAT MIGHT UPSET IT. FITZGERALD ACCEPTED THIS POINT, NOTED THAT EC WOULD CERTAINLY GO AHEAD WITH MONDAY MEETING, BUT THOUGH IT UNLIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY BINDING DECISIONS THAT WOULD AFFECT PEACE EFFORTS OR WORK BEING DONE IN ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP.

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